

**Minutes of the Council Meeting  
Held in the Brearley Room, Grosvenor Centre  
on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 beginning at 7.30pm**

Present	Cllr. P Alker (in the Chair)	Cllr. T Simkin
	Cllr. K Abbott	Cllr. S Green
	Cllr. M Cowie	Cllr. D Watson-Jones
	Cllr. G Payne	Cllr. J Tomkinson
	Cllr D Willetts	Cllr. K Ingram
	Cllr. M Booth	Miss J Cooper, Clerk
	Cllr. S Wallis	

SBC Cllr Ken Williamson  
SBC Cllr Mike Smith  
SCC Cllr Mark Winnington

14/014	<p><b>Public Open Forum (5 members present)</b></p> <p>Mr Buckless raised concerns about two trees recently cut down from a property on Audmore Road. He said other trees were cut down a few years ago that he believed had Tree Preservation Orders and was told at the time they were diseased. New trees were supposed to be planted to replace those removed but had not been. He added the trees were planted to celebrate the completion of Greenfields many years ago. He had tried to contact Cllr Ann Kelly but had not received a response therefore was raising this with the Parish Council. Mr Buckless also expressed his concern about a recent extension at the same property.</p> <p>As these issues were both Stafford Borough Council matters, Cllr Mike Smith agreed to investigate them both and report back to the Clerk.</p>	Cllr M Smith
14/015	<p><b>To receive apologies, record absences</b></p> <p>Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Hughes, Cllr Deegan, Cllr Cook (all unwell) and Cllr Greatrex (holiday). Apologies were accepted.</p>	
14/016	<p><b>To record any declarations of interest</b></p> <p>Cllr Alker declared an interest in item 14/020(c) regarding the Council's new website.</p>	
14/017	<p><b>a) To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13.1.13</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.</p> <p><b>b) To receive and confirm the minutes of the special council meeting held on 13.1.14</b></p> <p>The Clerk would reissue these minutes as she had omitted to include details of the proposed Scientific Workshop in Shelmore Wood.</p>	Clerk
14/018	<p><b>To consider any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b></p> <p><b>Swimming Pool/Community Asset</b> – Cllr Alker had carried out</p>	

	<p>extensive work gathering information to support the Community Asset Application. This information would now be passed to the Clerk for submission.</p> <p><b>Newport Food Bank</b> – Cllr Hughes had raised this matter at the recent Patients Forum and it had been agreed that the surgery would be willing to help if required.</p> <p><b>Norbury Science Park Exhibition</b> – Cllrs were reminded that this would be held at the Grosvenor Centre on 21.2.14.</p>	Clerk
14/019	<p><b>To receive the following reports:</b></p> <p><b>a) The Clerk’s report</b></p> <p>The report, previously circulated, included details of all committee meetings held in the past month.</p> <p>The report also included details of the <b>Special Parish Forum meeting</b> held on 5<sup>th</sup> February that the Clerk and Cllr Alker had attended.</p> <p>This meeting was arranged to update parishes on the position of the Local Plan, to provide an update on significant planning applications for housing across Stafford Borough, share how Neighbourhood Plans are being progressed and possible methodology and processes for allocation of new houses to Key Service Villages (KSV’s). SBC has not identified where development should be within the KSV’s as it wants to engage with parishes via Parish Councils to discuss this.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she had since arranged a meeting with Stafford Borough Council to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February and to which any Cllr could attend and suggested Cllrs who are members of the Neighbourhood Plan group should attend as this would be relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>All parishes and the Borough Council shared the same concern about opportunist developers submitting applications whilst the Local Plan is still being considered, this is a key issue for the Borough Council – an issue that the Borough Council had not yet been able to resolve as it has to consider “all” applications on their own merit. However it was noted that the Local Plan carries more weight the nearer it gets to completion. Mr Manders, Head of Planning and Regeneration confirmed the Borough Council can now demonstrate more than a 5 year land supply (this has to be verified through examination however).</p> <p><b>St John Ambulance</b></p> <p>The Clerk raised her concerns that the lease for SJA is still outstanding after almost 18 months and would, in fact, be ready to review in September 2014 and despite regular correspondence to Hand Morgan &amp; Owen (GPC’s solicitors) and instruction to the solicitor in July 2013 to serve a notice to quit, very little progress has been made. She said rent was paid up to date.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to write to the solicitor and question why this is not resolved and why the Notice to Quit was not served when requested. There was concern that Hand Morgan and Own had not progressed with this matter as quickly and efficiently as it should and the Council would consider changing its solicitor at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk Cllrs</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p><b>Wind Farm, Knightley Hall Farm</b>  The Clerk had previously circulated updated information to Cllrs regarding the proposed wind farm. It was noted that the number of turbines had reduced from 4 to 3 and a second consultation event is planned for Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Cllrs had been invited to attend.</p> <p><b>Reports from Stafford Borough/County Councillors</b>  Borough Councillors reported Council Tax would be reduced by 2%. They also briefly reported on a meeting with the Queens Council regarding the Local Plan. As the Borough Council can demonstrate a 5 year housing supply the plan carries greater weight and makes it a little easier to argue against planning applications. The QC had given useful guidance on how the Borough Council can refuse applications.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Winnington(SCC) also reported on the Council Tax in particular that the Fire Authority had agreed to freeze tax at £67.40 (Band D property). He said Staffordshire County Council now has the lowest Council Tax in England.</p> <p>He also reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work continues to ensure the National Cycle Route is open all the way along and tree maintenance work is also ongoing.</li> <li>• A questionnaire regarding the future of the swimming pool will be distributed in the very near future. Assessment and replacement costs are still being considered.</li> <li>• Gnosall Library – this is up for discussion and the majority of residents attended a meeting in January felt the Grosvenor Centre was preferable. (The Clerk had since sent Cllr Winnington details of the work carried out by GPC in 2010/11 regarding the relocation of the library’s relocation to the Grosvenor Centre).</li> <li>• Youth Club - GPC was asked to complete the Consultation on Young Peoples Services that is currently on the SCC website</li> <li>• St Lawrence School – SCC still trying to find a way of increasing the size of the school at the time of its rebuild by looking at funding sources and S106 monies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reports from Parish Councillors</b>  Cllr Booth gave details of a meeting she had attended with other members of GRID and Mr Ted Manders, Head of Planning and Regeneration regarding the Local Plan and the housing matters and explained that the settlement hierarchy that had recently been discussed as a way of allocating houses to KSV’s would not now be used and parishes and neighbouring parishes would be asked to decide how this is arranged.</p> <p>Cllr Booth reported that Cllr Winnington had arranged for a question on behalf of GRID and parishioners who signed the petition, to be on the agenda at the next Staffordshire County Council meeting regarding the outcome of the recent housing petition. A written answer is expected.</p> <p>Cllr Alker gave an update on the recent Patients Forum meeting that included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• details of the patient survey of which the results showed a slightly higher than average satisfaction rate with the Health Centre. The lowest score concerned consistency, with people complaining that they were unable to see the same doctor every time.</li> </ul>	Cllrs
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of the word 'trainee' when applied to the doctors training to be G.P.s was felt that this was misleading as it led people to believe that they were being dealt with by trainee doctors whereas they were, of course, qualified doctors undergoing training as G.P.s. A more appropriate title would be considered.</li> <li>The Health Centre would support the Parish Council in its efforts to keep the swimming pool in the village.</li> </ul> <p>It was suggested that a letter box be fitted within the gates of the surgery as this would be useful to post correspondence or prescriptions when the surgery is closed. This would be taken up at the next meeting.</p>	
14/020	<p><b>To consider committee issues:</b></p> <p><b>a) Matters relating to the Grosvenor Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the meeting held on 4.2.14 were accepted</li> <li>A new boiler had been fitted</li> <li>Railings around Rosebuds nursery are in the process of being sandblasted and repainted</li> <li>Replacement fascias and guttering is planned for March 2014</li> <li>Income from Grosvenor Centre bookings had reached its budgeted target prior to the end of the financial year</li> <li>A Risk Assessment had been carried out and 10 non-priority jobs identified that would be addressed accordingly</li> <li>PA System - It had previously been agreed that GPC should purchase its own equipment for the Grosvenor Centre. Cllr Abbott had obtained details that were circulated and discussed. The price of the type of equipment that would be suitable for the needs of the Grosvenor Centre would be around £1640. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that equipment as discussed and the specification obtained be purchased as long as two further quotations are obtained in line with Financial Regulations. Hirers of the centre would be asked for a deposit should they wish to use this equipment – Grosvenor Centre Committee to discuss this in further detail.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Matters relating to Open Spaces Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the meeting held on 16.1.14 were accepted</li> <li>An Open Day is being planned for 5<sup>th</sup> July on The Acres, Village Green and Chippy Jumps. A separate meeting would be arranged in March to discuss this in further detail.</li> <li>Work continues of Phase 3 of the Acres, mainly on funding applications.</li> <li>It was noted that a small section of the boardwalk was currently under water. This would be taken up with the contractors.</li> </ul> <p><i>Cllr Alker had previously declared an interest in the following item</i></p> <p><b>c) Matters relating to the Communications Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A detailed presentation had been given to some cllrs that morning on the new website. It was accepted that the new site would be easier to maintain from the Parish Office. The new website would be launched in early March.</li> <li>Cllrs were asked to send in details of their own personal web browsers to ensure the new site conforms to the various options.</li> </ul> <p><b>d) Matters relating to the Procedures Review Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of the meeting held 29.1.14 were received that included a</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk/ Cllr Abbott</p> <p>Gros. Cttee</p> <p>Cllrs</p>

	<p>recommendation for a temporary variation to the Standing Orders to item 12(a) as follows:</p> <p><i>“To elect the current Chairman of the Council for an additional 12 months (from March 2014) because of the current housing matters (subject to the Chairman’s agreement and election at the annual council meeting in May 2014).</i></p> <p>The Clerk had previously reminded Cllrs that the recommendation at this meeting would be noted and discussed at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>However, a query was raised that no Chairman had been elected at the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January and this meeting therefore may not be lawful. Cllr Payne also raised his concerns that all councillors should have attended this meeting. The Clerk said details that a PRG meeting was being arranged had been addressed at a previous Council meeting and Cllrs who are members of the group had been invited. However, to ease any concerns and to ensure that a Chairman is elected the Clerk agreed to recall this meeting and inform all Cllrs accordingly.</p>	Clerk
14/020	<p><b>To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan including external funding</b></p> <p>Cllrs were informed that approximately 524 completed questionnaires had been received which is about a 25% return. This was a very good response and more than expected.</p> <p>The NP Working Group would meet on 11<sup>th</sup> February and agree the way forward in analysing the questionnaires as well discussing funding and progressing with the funding application.</p>	NP Group
14/021	<p><b>To discuss police reports and publicity for the new Police Post</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed Council that starting on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the Police Post would be open to the public from 5pm – 7pm every Thursday (apart from when the police are called away for an emergency incident). This would be advertised by Staffordshire Police as well as the Clerk in GPN and on Notice Boards.</p> <p>It was suggested that improved directional signage from the main roads would be beneficial. The Clerk to liaise with Staffordshire Police.</p> <p>Detailed police reports and regular attendance at Parish Council meetings had ceased some time ago however, Council was informed that brief information i.e. number of crimes and type of crimes, is available from ukcrimestats.com Cllr Alker agreed to download this information and report to Council meetings on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Alker</p>
14/022	<p><b>To receive a report on financial receipts for January 2014 and to receive accounts for approval for February 2014</b></p> <p>The accounts were reviewed then proposed, seconded and approved for payment. Clerk to action.</p>	

14/023	<p><b>To report on any road and footway matters within the parish, including:</b></p> <p><b>a) updates of any previous matters reported</b> Cllrs were asked to inform the Clerk of any progress on previously reported Highways issues</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to report the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose gravel (from recent road resurfacing) on the section of Newport Road from Glendower to the Navigation pub.</li> <li>• Fly tipping on the lane off the A518 to Weavers Quarry</li> <li>• Learning signpost at junction of Lower Bromstead Road and Heath Road</li> <li>• Blocked grid on Lowfield Lane causing flooding</li> <li>• Ongoing issues on Moreton roads with pot holes and deterioration</li> <li>• Blocked drain at entrance of Willey Lane causing flooding</li> <li>• S J Bargh milk containers – although many are using the preferred route along Brookhouse Road, some are still using the High Street and speeding.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) request from Moreton residents for two road side signs to include the MOBSTEAD website (similar to Gnosall and Haughton)</b></p> <p>This was discussed and it was agreed to purchase 2 signs to be fixed beneath existing Moreton Village signs, up to the value of £200. The Clerk to action.</p> <p>Cllr Wallis asked for the bench on Moreton Green to be cleaned and any maintenance required dealt with. Clerk to liaise with Handyman.</p>	<p>Cllrs</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14/024	<p><b>To consider correspondence and other communications received (list enclosed for parish councillors, available to residents on application to the Clerk) including</b></p> <p><b>Nominations for Pride in Your Patch 2013/2014</b> It was agreed that the Best Kept Village Team be nominated for this award. The Clerk to action.</p>	Clerk
14/025	<p><b>To request items for the next agenda</b></p> <p>Cllrs to contact the Clerk 10 days prior to the next meeting with agenda items.</p>	Cllrs
14/026	<p><b>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</b></p> <p>This would be held on 10 March 2014 in the Brearley Room.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm